

# ***Detroit Housing Commission***

## **Resident News**

*Published by the Detroit Housing Commission, 1301 East Jefferson, Detroit, Michigan 48207  
John Nelson, Jr., Executive Director John W. Hurt, Deputy Executive Director*

### ***Proposal Would End Drug Elimination and Cut Mod Funds***

By John Nelson, Jr.  
DHC Executive Director

The new year has begun with a jolt for public housing authorities across the nation.

The new HUD budget proposed by President Bush would end the Drug Elimination Program and reduce Capital Funding. The  
(See *Drug Elimination*, Page 2)



### ***Survey Results Show That Residents Feel Safe***

By Frank Ward  
Commander,  
Housing Support Section

A survey of residents shows that residents who live in public housing feel safe overall. Detroit Housing Commission staff administered the surveys in February of this year as part of the requirements of  
(See *Survey Results*, Page 6)



### ***Time For Residents To Vote***

By Betty Scott

President,

Resident Advisory Board

The Detroit Housing Commission will support



and monitor the resident council election process during the month of April. Residents must check with their management offices if they do not already know the date and time of the Resident  
(See *Resident Council Election*, Page 7)

### ***New General Manager Of Operations States Priorities***

By Duane Walker  
General Manager,  
Operations Division

As the new General Manager of Housing Operations, I would like to take this opportunity to share with you some of the priorities of my administration. It is the goal of the Detroit Housing Commission's Operations Division  
(See *New General Manager*, Page 5)



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## ***Drug Elimination And Capital Fund Cuts Would Hurt DHC***

*(Continued From Page 1)*

National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (NAHRO) states that shocking is the only word to use for the President's proposal.

The budget, if approved, would prove devastating for the Detroit Housing Commission. The Drug Elimination Grant allows the Commission to maintain a security team that includes 55 full-time police officers with the Detroit Police Department's Housing Support Section (HSS), private security guards, and security monitoring equipment. Drug Elimination also enables DHC to leverage additional security funding through the COPS program.

Besides funding security measures, Drug Elimination allows DHC to provide crucial crime prevention activities such as the Midnight Basketball Program, the Youth Tenant Council, and Winterfest Youth Conference. Cancellation of the Drug Elimination Grant would put all of these programs in jeopardy.

In addition to Drug Elimination Grant cuts, a

proposed nationwide \$700 million cut in capital funding would scale back capital improvements. NAHRO estimates that the cuts would result in housing authorities losing 30% of their future capital funding. A 30% cut to DHC's \$16.5 million annual capital appropriation would reduce the Commission's available capital resources by \$4.95 million a year.

The cuts would severely hinder the Commission's ability to fulfill its mission to provide safe and secure housing for low- and moderate-income individuals. If the Administration expects housing authorities to rely on the eviction process to maintain security in the developments, then the cuts are based on a faulty strategy. The Commission already evicts disorderly tenants. Most public housing crimes involve individuals who live outside of public housing. HUD must preserve present funding levels to ensure security and maintain capital improvements. Now is the time for residents and all parties interested in preserving public housing to express their opinions for the good of public housing residents in Detroit and the nation as well.

## ***FreshOnline Program At Brewster-Douglass Spurs Entrepreneurial Activity***

Project FreshOnline hosted a grand opening on February 7<sup>th</sup> at its Brewster- Douglass Office at 650 Alfred, Suite 150. The project, which is owned and operated by the Brewster-Douglass Resident Council, allows participants to order food at competitive prices over the Internet. The food is delivered to the Brewster-Douglass site within 24 hours of the order s placement. While designed to serve Brewster-Douglass residents, the service is open to the general public. The group s web site can be accessed at [www.freshonline.net](http://www.freshonline.net). For more information on FreshOnline call (313) 961-2966.



*DHC Executive Director John Nelson, Jr. and Grace Byers, President of the Brewster-Douglass Resident Council, celebrate opening of the Internet grocery service.*

## ***Residents Can Sign Up For Child Care Job Training Program***

Detroit Housing Commission residents can sign up for available slots in the American Red Cross' Child Care Provider Training Program. Classes are scheduled to begin in early June. To register contact Rosalie Shannon at the Detroit Housing Commission, (313) 877-8296.

The child care training program teaches 45 hours of skill and theory needed to work as a child care provider or to start your own in-home child care business. The program includes State of Michigan requirements and Red Cross certification. Day and evening classes are available.

## ***Midnight Golf And Basketball Programs Teach New Skills To Resident Youth***

Detroit Housing Commission's youth residents are participating in Midnight Golf and Basketball Programs. Midnight golf includes young adults age 17 — 22. Participants are learning how to golf. They also participate in life skill and self improvement workshops. The program was founded by Renee Fluker and is sponsored by DHC, the Professional Golfers Association of America, CIS/CISCO Networking Academy, Franklin Wright Settlements, State Farm Insurance Company, Children s Aid Society, St. John Health System Detroit Riverview Hospital, Christopher Day and the Empowerment Zone Development Corporation.

The Midnight Basketball League began play in February. The program has organized male and female leagues for those age 17 — 25. Partners in this years league include Inkster Weed and Seed, Inkster Recreation Department and Bank One.



*Participants practice golf swings indoors at gym in Franklin Wright Settlement*

## ***Youth Leadership Conference Held***

Metro Detroit s public housing youth leadership gathered in Hamtramck on March 3 to participate in Winterfest 2001: We Are The Future. Workshops were conducted on peer pressure, goal setting, and educational achievement values. Sponsors included DHC, Friends of Parkside, Don Bosco Hall, WJLB, Michigan Metro Girl Scouts, and the Detroit Area Council Boy Scouts of America.



*John Mason of WJLB addresses DHC Youth Leadership Conference*